

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DISTRIBUTED  
NETWORK AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           An electronic commerce distributed network is  
disclosed that includes a plurality of interconnected  
processing nodes. Each processing node (50) includes a  
first sub-node (52) and a second sub-node (54) that are  
connected to communicate information and are in  
10       geographically remote locations. The first sub-node (52)  
of each processing node (50) has an active state in which  
the first sub-node (52) communicates with other  
processing nodes and processes electronic commerce  
messages communicated with originator/recipient  
15       organizations. The second sub-node (54) of each  
processing node (50) has a mirror state in which the  
second sub-node (54) mirrors the first sub-node (52) as  
well as an active state in which the second sub-node (54)  
communicates with other processing nodes and processes  
20       electronic commerce messages communicated with  
originator/recipient organizations. The first sub-node  
(52) of each processing node (50) is initially in the  
active state, and the second sub-node (54) is initially  
in the mirror state. The second sub-node (54) is  
25       operable to switch to the active state if the first sub-  
node (52) fails, such that each processing node in the  
electronic commerce distributed network can maintain  
operation in the event the first sub-node of that  
processing node experiences failure.